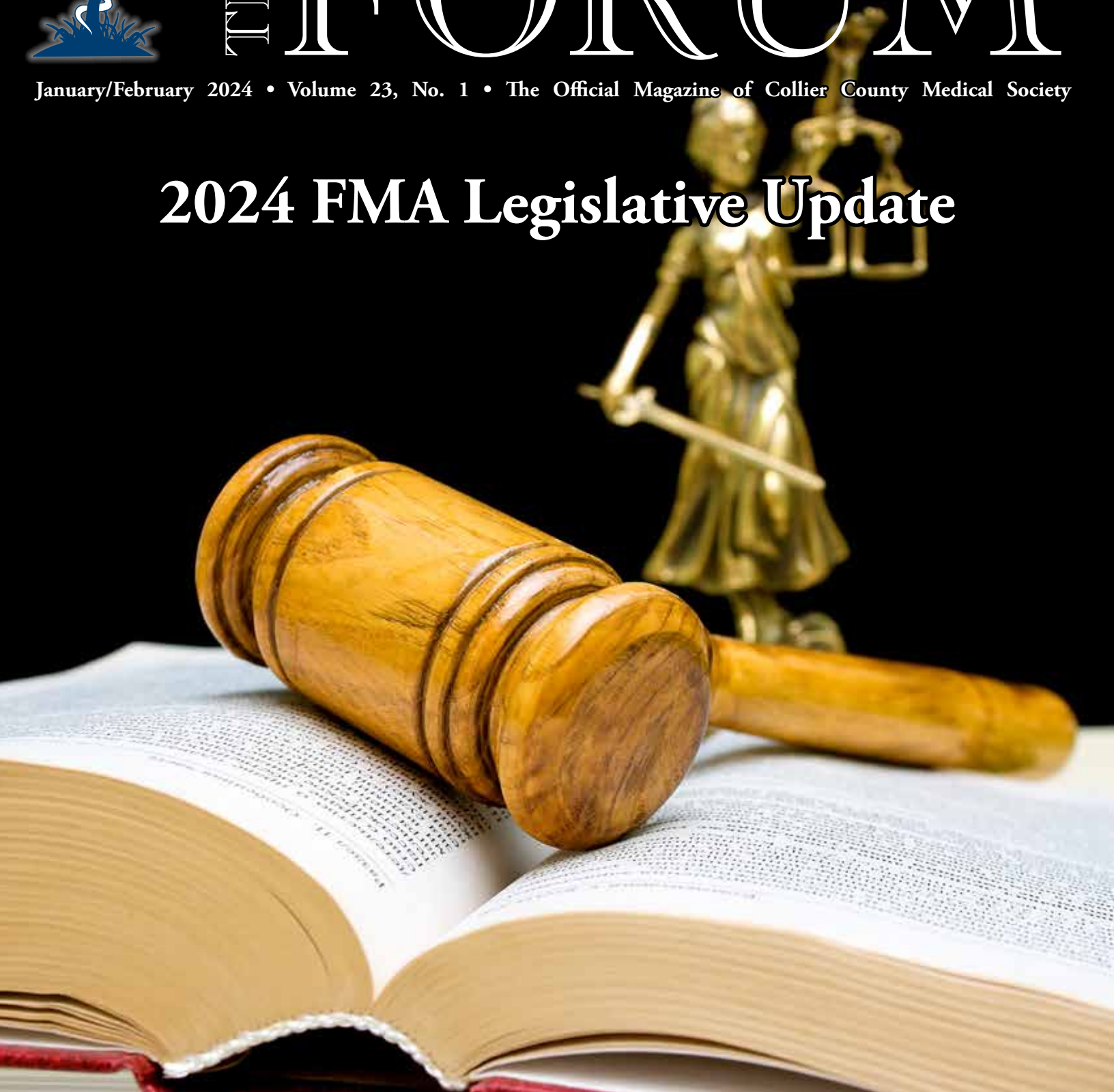




THE FORUM

January/February 2024 • Volume 23, No. 1 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

2024 FMA Legislative Update



In this issue:

Member News pg. 3; CCMS President's Message pg. 4; 2024 FMA Legislative Update pg. 6;
Physician of the Year Nominations Open pg. 8; Collier Community Health Assessment pg. 9;
Foundation of CCMS Scholarship Applications pg. 12; Member Event Photos pg. 14

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register at www.ccmsonline.org or call (239) 435-7727

Wednesday, January 24, 5:30pm

CCMS After 5 Social

The Naples Art District

Thursday, February 8, 6pm

CCMS After 5 Social

Inspire Exercise Medicine

Saturday, February 17, 5:30pm

CCMS & CCMS Alliance Family Golf Night

Topgolf Fort Myers

Thursday, March 7, 5:30pm

CCMS After 5 Social

Naples Plastic Surgery

Saturday, March 23, 8:30am

CCMS Women's Health Forum

Naples United Church of Christ

Open to the public

Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Saturday, April 13, 5:30pm

CCMS & CCMS Alliance

Everblades Family Hockey Night

Hertz Arena

Saturday, June 15, 6:30pm

CCMS 67th Annual Meeting

Arthrex One Conference Center

Open to the public

Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Premier Circle of Friends



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sunil.muley@lmcu.org

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Karen Mosteller, CPA, CHBC • 239-261-5554

kmosteller@markham-norton.com

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Josh Zachritz • 239-206-1193

vendors@stickboy.com

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CCMS Member Dues

The 2024 CCMS dues deadline was Dec. 31, 2023.

Members (or their groups) can pay online today at ccmsonline.org/membership. Invoices have also been mailed directly to members who pay individually, or to practice administrators for group payment. Members who need an extension, payment program, or waiver, please contact CCMS. Thank you for renewing!

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Views and opinions expressed in The Forum are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Collier County Medical Society's Board of Directors, staff or advertisers. Copy deadline for editorial and advertising submission is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The editorial staff of The Forum reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

MEMBER NEWS

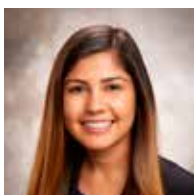
New Members:



Ira Berman, MD
High Tide Dermatology Center LLC
599 9th St N Ste 300
Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 444-3376 Fax: (239) 316-3001
Board Certified: Dermatology



Michael Binner, MD
Urology
Naples Urology Associates
311 9th St N Ste 200
Naples, FL 34104
Ph: (239) 434-8565 Fax: (239) 434-8569



Kristen Dimas, MD
Healthcare Network
1454 Madison Ave W
Immokalee, FL 34142
Ph: (239) 658-3000
Board Certified: Family Medicine



Annie Emmick, MD
NCH Medical Group
11181 Health Park Blvd
Naples, FL 34110
Ph: (239) 624-0570
Board Certified: Pediatrics



Rand Kirshner, DO
Physicians Regional Medical Group
8300 Collier Blvd
Naples, FL 34114
Ph: (239) 354-6000
Board Certified: Anesthesiology



Aleatha D Reitsma-Mathias, MD
NCH Academic Hospitalist
350 7th St N
Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 624-3997 Fax: (239) 624-8101
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Nancy Tarbell, MD
Inspire Oncology
3555 Kraft Rd Ste 130
Naples, FL 34105
Ph: (239) 429-0800 Fax: (239) 241-8209
Board Certified: Radiation Oncology

New Members (continued):



Hillary Tassin, MD
Naples Concierge Cardiology and Internal Medicine
625 9th St N Ste 104
Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 963-9788 Fax: (239) 963-9771
Board Certified: Cardiovascular Disease;
Internal Medicine



Michael Tsipursky, MD
Advanced Retina Institute
28901 Trails Edge Blvd Ste 202
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
Ph: (239) 544-3122 Fax: (239) 544-3128
Board Certified: Ophthalmology



Jason Watters, MD
Indiana Joint Replacement Institute
3530 Kraft Rd Ste 201
Naples, FL 34105
Ph: (239) 445-2112 Fax: (239) 402-8460
Board Certified: Orthopaedic Surgery

Retired New Members:

Mahmoud Adam, MD

John Calce, MD

Gary Hills, DO

Reinstated Member:

Yaritza Perez-Soto, MD
General Surgery
Physicians Regional Medical Group
8831 Founders Square Dr
Naples, FL 34120
Ph: (239) 348-4221

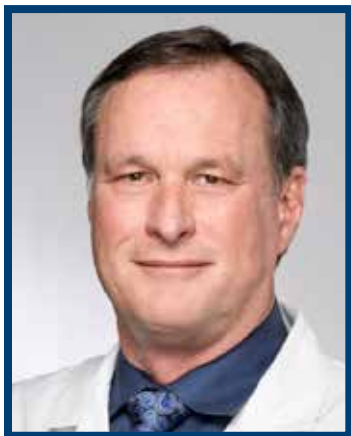
Practice Updates:

Matt DeNunzio, MD
Joe Repay, MD
Nicoleta Kakaes, MD
Wellspan Medical Services
New Suite: #211

Jennifer Foley, MD
Louis Foley, MD
New Practice Name: Naples Independent Physicians
New Ph: (239) 920-9010 New Fax: (239) 341-0023

A Message from the CCMS President

Gary Swain, M.D.



Stewardship in Healthcare

Stewardship is defined as the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property. As physicians, we should be the stewards of the healthcare in Collier County.

I recently overheard a conversation between two medical insurance executives seated near me in a restaurant,

stating the problem with healthcare is that doctors only treat disease and do not emphasize healthy lifestyles. I was initially dismayed at what I knew to be untrue before I realized this was likely a common perception.

As Collier County Medical Society members, we should embrace the stewardship for healthcare in Collier County. We can achieve this by supporting and championing efforts to improve healthcare provision in our county by focusing on educating our patients and the public. We have several local organizations involved in improving the healthcare environment. We, as physicians, should understand their plans and support them when appropriate.

Naples Comprehensive Healthcare (NCH) is actively involved in improving medical care in Collier County. They are improving cardiovascular care in Naples, bringing new cardiovascular specialists to town, and building a new cardiovascular facility that will provide state-of-the-art cardiac care. Unfortunately, this has met resistance from a few in the community for various reasons, including the projected increased local traffic associated with the project. Alternatively, the increased traffic may be due to the high-density condo development and population increase. Just as we should consider infrastructure development to accommodate the increase in population, we should also consider increasing the infrastructure of our medical community. NCH is also partnering with the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) to expand orthopedic care in Naples. As we all know, HSS is renowned for its orthopedic outcomes in the nation. This project will be located at NCH's north campus and is projected to be completed in 2024.

Physicians Regional Healthcare System is also expanding its inpatient beds to increase inpatient access for our community. Their North Campus is fully operational with a 30-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility and a 20-bed Orthopedic Specialty hospital. Their cardiovascular program maintained its Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) 3-star (highest possible) rating, among the country's best. They have launched and continue growing upon a very successful structural heart program to include TAVR and will soon add Mitraclip. They recently added the ION robotic-assisted bronchoscopy platform for minimally invasive peripheral lung biopsy.

ProScan is working to improve the imaging capabilities in Naples. They have started two women's imaging centers at the downtown NCH campus at Medical Plaza and their Airport and Vanderbilt offices. The airport site also has a three-t (Tesla) MRI dedicated to women. ProScan is also working to educate physicians on advancements in imaging, including prostate MRI, Alzheimer's imaging, and cardiovascular imaging. They are sponsoring a "Living Longer" symposium at Arthrex in January. This symposium will focus on preventive care, orthopedic imaging, cardiology imaging, stroke imaging, and imaging for early detection. Dr. Navas, Dr. Abu-Awad, Dr. Pomeranz, and Dr. Guerra will lecture at this symposium.

Radiology Regional is also expanding services with a new dedicated breast imaging center opening in 2025. They also perform Cardiac CT angiograms with FFR on their dual source scanner at their Goodlette site.

Several of our members volunteer at the Neighborhood Health Clinic, providing care for our vulnerable patients. This clinic allows access to patients who would not otherwise be able to receive care. The same is true of the Physician Led Access Network. These organizations rely on charitable donations and volunteerism to exist. CCMS, the Foundation of CCMS, and the CCMS Alliance routinely donate funds to one or both organizations. The Community Physicians Talent Show also successfully raised funds for these organizations as well.

CCMS emphasizes both provider education through continuing medical education and patient education through community lectures or forums. The annual Women's Health Forum allows our CCMS physicians an opportunity to discuss women's health issues with Collier County residents and visitors. There is currently not a Men's Health Forum, but perhaps there should be. My patients have enjoyed many lectures on topics such as Alzheimer's Prevention and Diagnosis, Diabetes Management, and Cardiovascular Prevention.

We, as physicians, have a unique opportunity to shepherd the community into healthier lifestyles and prevention strategies. The medical profession took a reputation hit during the COVID pandemic with the ever-changing recommendations and controversies. Through physician involvement and the increased services being developed, we have an opportunity to reverse this perception. We need to decide if we want to continue to be perceived as reactive or as physicians who take an active approach to healthcare within our community by providing educational opportunities that emphasize healthy lifestyles for our community. Equally important is our support for the development of common-sense medical infrastructure to provide the necessary care for our growing population.

CCMS will continue to support physicians' ability to provide medical care to their patients and welcome any suggestions that you may have.



Physician Wellness Program

New Year Mental Health Check-Up

How it Works

As a benefit to all members, CCMS provides up to 6 confidential sessions per calendar year at no charge with independent, doctorate-level clinical psychologists.

We invite local physicians to take advantage of the program for a new year mental wellness “check-up” session.

- Use a session to help with your mental wellness self-assessment; make your new year’s resolutions stick; receive tips on time management & communication skills; address lawsuits/disciplinary action; or simply talk.
- To participate: call the psychologists’ private, CCMS member **appointment line, 239-208-3984**. Receive a same-day response during business hours or next-morning response after hours.
- See one of the psychologists within 72 hours to 1 week, possibly sooner for urgent needs, with evening and early morning hours potentially available. You may extend your check-up for up to 5 more cost-free sessions.

For more information on the program
& the participating psychologists visit:

ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness

2024 Legislative Agenda

Florida Medical Association



increasing reimbursement rates, eliminating practice burdens, and protecting the practice of medicine from unqualified providers. The issues listed below are those that the FMA believes will occupy the majority of our lobbying efforts. However, the Legislative Session is a fluid process and unforeseen events may develop. The FMA consistently communicates with legislative leadership throughout session to ensure that only those bills that positively affect physicians, patients, and the practice of medicine make it across the finish line.

Physician Medicaid to Medicare Rate Increase

In the most significant payment increase for Florida physicians in over a decade, the FMA secured \$76 million during the 2023 Legislative Session to increase reimbursement rates to, at a minimum, the Medicare level for physicians who provide care to Medicaid patients under the age of 21, effective October 1, 2023. In order to continue increasing access to high-quality care, the FMA is working to expand the rate increase to include physicians who render medically necessary services to any Medicaid recipient, regardless of age.

Medical Student Loan Forgiveness – FRAME Program

Due to the overwhelming success of the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) Program, the FMA was able to secure and increase the program's recurring funding from \$6 million to \$16 million for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The FRAME Program assists eligible healthcare practitioners, including physicians, with the repayment of medical education loans. Physicians and residents practicing primary care in rural areas are eligible for up to \$20,000 per year in medical education reimbursement. The FMA is once again advocating to increase the program's recurring funding and increase the award amount for physicians. The continuation and increased funding of this program will help alleviate physician shortages in underserved communities, encourage more physicians to practice family and general medicine, and promote team-based medicine in rural communities, which will help safeguard patient safety and quality of care.

Graduate Medical Education – Slots for Doctors Program

During the 2023 Legislative Session, the FMA secured a recurring \$30 million appropriation to create the Slots for Doctors Program. This new graduate medical education program will incentivize the creation of 300 resident positions in specialties with statewide supply-and-demand deficits. The program allocates \$100,000 annually for residency positions in an initial or established accredited residency program. The Slots for Doctors Program

is just one of the strategic tools the FMA has employed to increase Florida's physician workforce. Every year, hundreds of Florida medical school graduates must leave the state when matched into out-of-state residency programs. With nearly 60% of residents who complete their residencies in Florida remaining in the state, it is crucial that we continue to create additional residency positions and adequately fund those positions so that the projected physician shortage is averted, and Florida remains a state with available high-quality healthcare. The FMA will work to secure additional funding for the Slots for Doctors Program.

Prior Authorization

The FMA will pursue legislation to simplify, streamline, and expedite prior authorizations. Health plans employ time-consuming prior authorization requirements to control patient access to certain treatments. To reduce the burdensome impact that prior authorization requirements have on patients, reforms including but not limited to requiring electronic prior authorization requests, procedural transparency, reducing the medically unnecessary and duplicative information health plans currently require, and implementing time limits for approval or denial.

Tort Reform

Over the last two decades, the FMA has successfully fought for a number of medical liability system reforms, only to see these reforms invalidated by the Supreme Court. The FMA is working with other interested parties to develop a strategy for revisiting these reforms while the environment for doing so is favorable.

Scope-of-Practice Expansion

As always, the FMA will fight attempts to expand scope of practice for non-physicians. This year, the FMA will work to protect patients from unqualified optometrists wanting to perform laser surgery, CRNA independent practice, prescriptive authority for non-medically trained psychologists, deceptive name changes such as physician assistant to "physician associate" and nurse anesthetist to "nurse anesthesiologist," and any other legislation that would jeopardize patient safety. These dangerous initiatives would serve only to lower the quality of care delivered in Florida.

Access to Cancer Drugs

The FMA supports legislation that would prohibit insurers from requiring patients to meet prior authorization requirements before life-saving drugs could be prescribed for certain cancers and associated conditions. Further, the FMA supports prohibiting insurers from requiring mandatory home infusion of complex medications against the recommendations of the patient's treating physician. The FMA will also seek legislation to prohibit insurer-mandated "white bagging" and "brown bagging" policies, which compromise patient safety, result in medication and resource

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

waste, and further complicate care coordination. Physicians know what the safest route of administration is for these specialty medications – not health insurers.

Fairness in Dispute Resolution

Under current law, claim disputes between physicians and health plans can be mediated through the state's third-party dispute resolution organization. Unfortunately, the law provides these health plans with the ability to “opt out” of mediation, which is taken advantage of when the facts of the claim denial would likely result in a judgment against the plan. By opting out of mediation, health plans are counting on the fact that formal legal challenges will be too burdensome for physicians to pursue – a process that is both costly and time-consuming, detracting from actual patient care. The FMA is advocating for the elimination of this unfair opt-out provision in order to give physicians more power in the dispute resolution process.

Wrongful Death

The FMA opposes legislation that seeks to increase rates for medical malpractice insurance and healthcare costs in general. This legislation, which has been filed unsuccessfully in years past, would permit the recovery of noneconomic damages by adult children for the loss of a parent, and by the parents for the loss of an adult child with no surviving spouse or children, in a medical malpractice wrongful death claim. This type of policy is based on the offensive premise that certain patients would receive a lower standard of care (would be a “free kill”) and that pain and suffering damages would provide accountability. Physicians are already held accountable for their actions by their licensing board, hospitals, employers, and board certification entities. The changes sought by this legislation would do nothing more than drive up Florida's already high malpractice rate.

Pharmacy Collaborative Practice

Since 2020, pharmacists and physicians have had the ability to enter into collaborative practice agreements to manage certain chronic health conditions as enumerated in statute and rule. Under a collaborative agreement, pharmacists can order and evaluate clinical and laboratory tests and modify or discontinue a patient's medications. While the Board of Pharmacy has made repeated attempts to expand the list of conditions that may be collaboratively managed to include more complex conditions, such as heart failure and multiple sclerosis, the FMA has successfully blocked these efforts. The FMA will work to roll pharmacists' scope of practice back to where it belongs – within the practice of pharmacy.

Legislative Information for SWFL

Find Your Elected Officials:

Collier: colliervotes.gov/Candidates/
Current-Elected-Officials

Lee: lee.vote/Elected-Officials

2024 Election Dates:

Presidential Preference Primary – March 19
Primary Election Day – August 20
General Election Day – November 5

Voter Registration Details:

Collier: colliervotes.gov/Register-to-Vote/
Registration-Application

Lee: lee.vote/Admin/Check-my-Registration-Status

CCMS Advocacy Information:

Learn about CCMS legislative efforts and the CCMS Political Action Committee, including how to contribute: ccmsonline.org/advocacy



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CCMS Physician of the Year Request for Nominations

Collier County Medical Society

Collier County Medical Society is pleased to announce its search for the 10th Annual CCMS Physician of the Year. The award honors a CCMS member who deserves special recognition for exemplary contributions to the practice of medicine and/or outstanding service to our community. The Board of Directors of CCMS invites all CCMS members to submit nominees for this prestigious award.

Nominees must be a current member of CCMS and have demonstrated exceptional activities over the past year that reflect well on the medical profession. For instance, a candidate might be a physician who has made significant innovations in medicine, has helped improve access to care for the underserved, or has been a leading volunteer for worthwhile causes in our community.

The award will be presented at the 67th CCMS Annual Meeting, June 15, 2024 at Arthrex One Conference Center. Details will be posted at ccmsonline.org/events. For sponsor opportunities visit ccmsonline.org/support.

Complete the nomination form located at <https://bit.ly/3GnV9TX>, noting explicitly why the nominee is deserving of the award. We strongly encourage you to submit additional documentation such as supporting letters, CV, or news articles. All nominations must be made by CCMS member physicians.

Mail, fax, or email the nomination form and supporting information to:

Collier County Medical Society
ATTN: Physician of the Year Award
88 12th St. N., Unit 200, Naples FL 34102
Tel (239) 435-7727 Fax (239) 435-7790 info@ccmsonline.org

Deadline for entries is February 19, 2024

The CCMS Board of Directors thanks the Medical Society members for your part in helping us to acknowledge those physicians who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community.

Previous Physician of the Year Honorees:

Paul Mitchell, MD - 2015
Robert Tober, MD - 2016
Paul Jones, MD - 2017
James Talano, MD - 2018
Cesar De Leon, DO - 2019
Raymond Phillips, MD - 2020
Mark Russo, MD - 2021
Catherine Kowal, MD - 2022
Nena Korunda, MD - 2023



2023 Physician of the Year Nena Korunda, MD (right), nominated by Scott Fuchs, DO (left)

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A Resource for Our Continued Community Improvement

Mary Beth Geier, Florida Director, Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, and Eileen Connolly-Keesler, President & CEO, Collier Community Foundation.



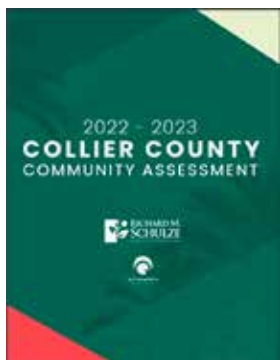
As physicians, your work intersects with every facet of people's lives and well-being. So, a resource that provides you with a snapshot of sectors of the community, along with current perspectives of community members can bring value to you and your teams as you serve your patients.



We all care about making our home the best place it can possibly be. It's important that all of us: neighbors, co-workers, friends, and strangers can live a balanced, healthy, sustainable life with our families. The first step toward improvement for the future is to understand the present. And that is exactly what a community assessment brings to a community.

Toward that goal, the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, Collier Community Foundation, and additional community organizations in partnership with Q-Q Research Consultants, Inc. (QQRC) have led a community assessment process.

In 2017, a collaborative and comprehensive process resulted in the first *Collier County: Community Needs and Assets Assessment*. This 2018 report was used in a variety of ways resulting in increased awareness and funding around early learning, mental health supports, career/technical education, along with the launch of the private/public housing initiative to increase affordable housing for essential workers (teachers, nurses, first responders, etc.) at the former Golden Gate Golf Course.



The newly updated report, the *2023 Collier County Community Assessment* is a five-year snapshot that highlights current strengths and needs, progress over time, and remaining gaps.

The report, again produced by QQRC, includes an updated community snapshot and current overview of community domains (Economic Opportunity &

Employment, Education, Environment, Health Care & Mental Health, Housing, Infrastructure & Transportation, and Special Populations), utilizing secondary data sources and community input through a survey and focus groups.

Notably, more than 6,000 people completed the survey, which well exceeded the target sample, and 231 people participated in

24 focus groups across the county, exemplifying a tremendous commitment to Collier County.

Below is a synopsis of the updated report:

Community Snapshot

From secondary data, such as US Census and other sources, the following trends have emerged for Collier County:

- **It's growing.** In 2022, the population was 397,994 which is a 6% increase from 2017 and there is a projected 13% increase from 2022 to 2030.
- **It's aging.** In 2020, 33% of Collier County was over the age of 65, ranking 7th in FL. By 2030, the 65+ percentage of the population is projected to grow to 37.9%.
- **It's changing.** The Hispanic population is projected to rise by 5% from 2020 to 2030 (34.7% of the population), and by 2050 projected to reach 45%. In the same period, the White population is projected to decrease, and the Black population will stay virtually the same.
- **It's educated.** The 4-year degree attainment for Collier residents in 2021 was 40.3% (FL 31.5%). It's lower for working age adults (25-64 years) at 35%. 8.4% have a 2-year degree. High school graduation rate is 91.5% which is ranked 11th in Florida.
- **Median Household Income** has increased from \$62,507 in 2017 to \$80,815 in 2022 exceeding that of both Florida and the US. There are significant geographic disparities (Immokalee at \$45,870, and Radio Road, Golden Gate city, and East Naples ranging from \$58,333-\$63,191) along with racial/ethnic disparities.
- **Poverty Rate** for Collier County has decreased along with the national trend and in 2021 it was 10.6%, with children under 18 years having the highest poverty rate at 18.4% in 2021.
- **The Median Living Wage** in Collier County is falling far behind what is needed to afford a satisfactory standard of living (affording shelter, food, childcare, transportation, and health care). For a family of 4 (two working adults, two children), the annual income required (before taxes) is \$109,888, and the Collier median is \$54,954 in 2023.
- **Health Care:** According to countyhealthrankings.org, the ratio of primary care providers in Collier County is 1,240:1 which is just slightly better than Florida, but well below the 1,010:1 ratio of the top performers in the US. The same is true of dental care with 1,420:1 in Collier (top US performers at 1,210) and for Mental Health providers in Collier at 880:1, below Florida (510) and well below top performers in the US (250).

continued from page 9

Community Member Opinions

In terms of community member priorities, there are a lot of similarities to the 2018 study, but the top interrelated issues have become concentrated in terms of community prioritization. In the survey, community members were asked to prioritize their top three issues to be addressed from a list with an option to add “other” and fill in the blank.

- Controlling housing costs, managing growth and development, and the related economic impact continue to be top priorities and outweigh everything else.
- The environment (preservation, emergency resilience, and planning) emerged significantly higher on the priority list than in 2018.
- While the overall sample did not identify education, childcare, or health/mental health/dental care, as top three priorities, when the sub-set of families with children under 18 and low-income families are analyzed, they prioritized these higher than the overall sample of people.

In addition, the survey included a list of issues within the community domains and residents were asked to rate their satisfaction with those services. (From Very Satisfied to Very Dissatisfied, with a “don’t know” option). We encourage everyone to read the report to examine community perspectives, particularly into the topics that have statistical disparities by geography or demographics. There were also some topics on which there was a

significant percentage (25%+) of the respondents who said they “don’t know”—which is an opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge in the community.



and encourage others to do the same. Think about how you can contribute to the continued progress of our community.

The new information in this report is intended to support all of us—residents, organizations, and civic leaders in continuing local efforts to improve quality of life in the Collier community. Read the report at SchulzeFamilyFoundation.org/CCCA, learn more about the community,

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Banking | Miranda Sharkey
239-514-2237 | firstcitizens.com



Advertising | Shannon Tacher
786-897-6700 | gulfcoastidb.com



Employee Benefits | Timothy McGee
239-415-0101 | lebenefitadvisors.com



Attorney | Linda Minck
239-260-5827 | minck-law.com



Insurance | Mitchell Dannenberg
239-877-1688 | ltcimarketplace.com



Financial Advisors | Dan Shannon
239-690-9820 | mfgflorida.com



Law Firm | Joshua Bialek
239-593-2962 | porterwright.com



Wealth Management | William Slepcevic
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Wealth Management | Nina Azwoir
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Scholarship Applications for Medical & Healthcare Students Due March 31st

Foundation of CCMS

The board of directors of the Foundation of Collier County Medical Society announces its latest call for applications for two scholarship award programs: the Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students, and the Foundation of CCMS Healthcare Student Scholarships for students enrolled in or accepted to healthcare degree programs. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2024.

The Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students honors and remembers Neighborhood Health Clinic co-founders Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid and their legacy of providing care and a medical home for thousands of underserved in Collier County. Along with their many exemplary contributions to the local medical community, Dr. Lascheid was a CCMS Past President, and Mrs. Lascheid was a CCMS Alliance Past President. Eligible Florida residents enrolled in or accepted to medical school, who have demonstrated excellence in service to their community, may apply.



2023 Healthcare Scholarship Recipients: Michael Grossi, Dulce Morales, Thais Martinez, Rebecca Paul, Andrea Ducasse, Elianis Rill



Stephanie Galindo,
2023 Dr. William
and Nancy Lascheid
Memorial Scholarship Recipient

The Foundation's Healthcare Student Scholarships offer awards to eligible Florida residents enrolled in or accepted as students in healthcare degree programs, such as nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, and more. The scholarships are based on academic merit and contributions to the community. Financial need may also be considered.

“With more than a decade of fostering excellence through our annual scholarship programs, we are honored to recognize the achievements of accomplished students,” remarked Dr. Rolando Rivera, Foundation Board Chair. “Through our commitment to nurturing the educational pursuits of future healthcare professionals, we are equipping them to elevate patient care to unprecedented heights.”

Applications are available at ccmsfoundation.org or may be obtained by calling the Foundation of CCMS, (239) 435-7727 or emailing info@ccmsonline.org. Information about previous recipients is also online.

The Foundation of CCMS is a 501(c)3 charitable organization launched by the Medical Society in 2012, with the mission to provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education. To support the Foundation's scholarship program and charitable healthcare endeavors, make a tax-deductible donation at ccmsfoundation.org or call 239-435-7727.

continued from page 3

Practice Updates (continued):

Neetu Malhotra, MD

Associates in Nephrology
New Address: 9550 Bonita Beach Rd Ste 108
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Kathryn Tapper, E, MD

New Practice Name: GLOW Coaching
Naples, FL

Joined New Practice:

Courtney Bell, MD

Indiana Joint Replacement Institute
3530 Kraft Road, Suite 201
Naples, FL 34105
Ph: (239) 445-2112 Fax: (239) 402-8460

Retired from Practice:

Herbert Gates, MD

Dennis Hidlebaugh MD



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Thank you for supporting our mission: "Provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education."

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CCMS After 5 Socials
CCMS Fall General Membership Meeting
CCMS New Members Welcome Reception



Dr. Arturo Balandra and Jackie Balandra



Dr. Ira Berman and Kathryn Berman



Dr. Ramu Patakoti and Roopa Pilli



Dr. Barrett Ginsberg and Suzana Tanimoto



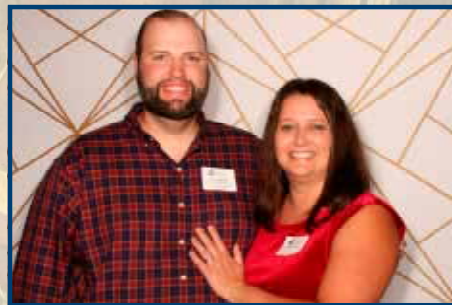
Dr. Matthew Levitsky and Deborah Levitsky



Dr. Rand Kirshner and Andrea Kirshner



Dr. Charlene DeLuca, Dr. Boyd Vaziri



Dr. Paul Hurd and Jessica Hurd



Dr. Robert Bello, Dr. Kevin Lam



Dr. Gary Webb and Olivia Webb,
Gina Hills and Dr. Gary Hills



Dr. Prathima Moorthy, Dr. Nicoleta Kakaes,
Dr. Sonal Sura, Dr. Alexandra Grace,
Dr. Kathryn Russell, Dr. Anne Marie Tremaine



Dr. Shona Velamakanni and Dr. Sajan Rao

15th Annual Women's Health Forum

Saturday
3.23.24

8:30am - 1:00pm

Reach
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400
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Women

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Aesthetics
Arthritis
Brain Health
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Gastroenterology
Fitness
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Joint Replacement
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Pain Management
Weight Loss
...and MORE!

Featured Speakers:

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Elizabeth Arguelles, MD
Russell Becker, DO
Courtney Bell, MD
Tulay Darstek, MD
Kristen Dimas, MD
Rafael Haciski, MD
Lindita Hobdari, MD
Matthew Levitsky, MD
Kathleen Marc, MD
Christie McGee, MD
Prathima Moorthy, MD

Shardul Nanavati, MD
Sharla Gayle Patterson, MD
Raymond Phillips, MD
Ariel Pollock, MD
Francesca Rudin, MD
Amanda Sacino, MD
Lina Sakr, MD
Sonal Sura, MD
Gary Swain, MD
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Download an application form
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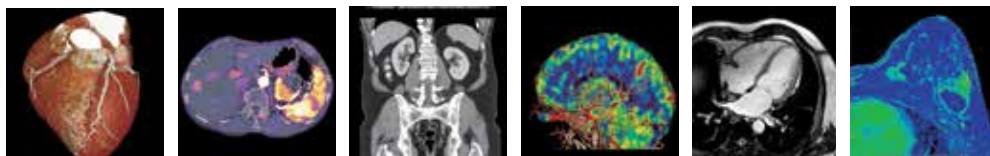
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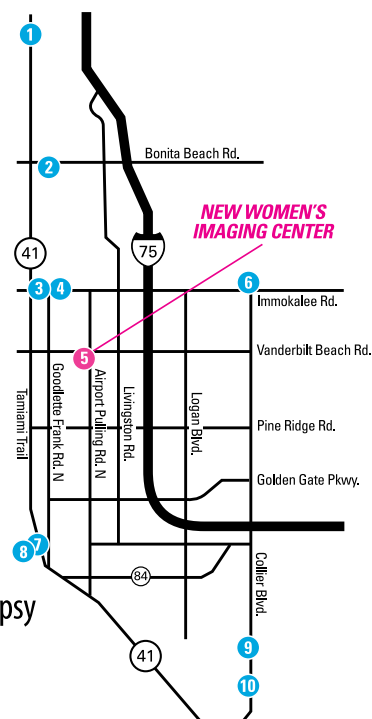


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